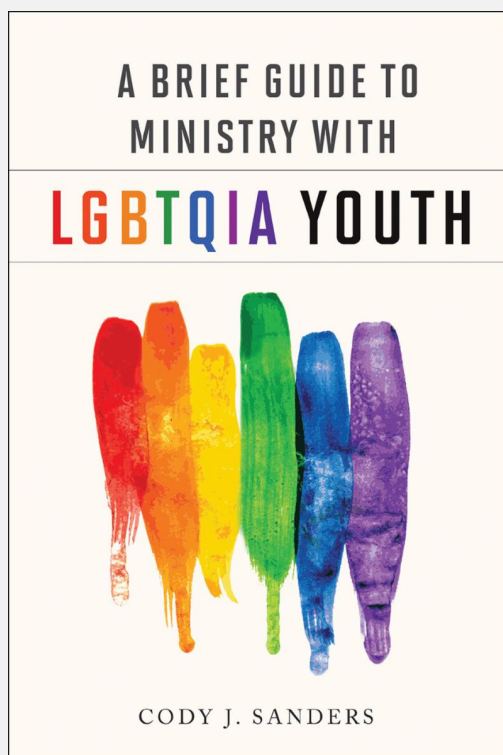




*June 20, 2019*

**REMINDER:** If you have articles or information that you think would be appropriate for *The Homesteader*, please send them to Jes at the Presbytery!  
[hpoffice@homesteadpres.org](mailto:hpoffice@homesteadpres.org)

## *Get Lost in a Book*



Despite our best efforts to create welcoming and affirming congregations, the reality is that church can still be a harmful place to LGBTQIA youth.

Inside *A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth*, author Cody J. Sanders challenges pastors and church leaders to reflect on the various trials that adolescence brings for LGBTQIA youth. Designed for congregations that currently have a theologically and biblically affirming stance toward the LGBTQIA community, this unique resource provides insight and practical advice for tough questions like:

- How does an affirming stance toward LGBTQIA people affect the day-to-day experience of teenagers in a church setting?
- In what ways can a church's youth ministry have a positive impact on the lives of LGBTQIA youth who want to fully live out their Christian faith and their gender identity?
- How can a pastor, youth minister, or youth ministry volunteer embrace, nurture, and provide skillful care for LGBTQIA youth in

A glossary of terms to use when talking about LGBTQIA issues and a list of national and location resources that can be used to support LGBTQIA youth are included.

## Presbytery Disaster Response Team



Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

by Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation | Special to  
Presbyterian News Service

When Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation sold one of its two retirement communities in 2017, its board was determined to help make a difference in Nebraska churches and communities by beginning an outward focus on its annual grant awards.

After 18 months of creating the grant process, the foundation announced six grants totaling \$141,500. According to a foundation news release, the grants, awarded to churches and organizations, will partially fund projects supporting outreach activities to enhance or expand some aspect of the ministry of those churches and organizations.

The grants went to:

- Hastings College to purchase supplies for a student-coordinated event to package meals for the hungry, both locally and globally.
- First Presbyterian Church of Hastings to update its broadcast ministry equipment to provide livestream capability for bringing services to rural Nebraska congregations that are without a pastor.
- Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln for construction of a pavilion for alternate worship services and neighborhood and community usage.
- Presbyterian Church of Fremont to bring its fire detection system up to code in order to begin a daycare ministry.
- Calvin Crest Camp for the installation of solar panels to both reduce its carbon footprint and educate campers on being good stewards of the Earth.
- Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation to expand its Pastoral Leadership Revitalization program into Homestead Presbytery and congregations in Western Nebraska.

The spring flooding that left many Nebraskans homeless and farms and livelihoods destroyed led the board to donate more than \$22,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid PDA's flood recovery response.

More information about Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation is available at its website, [www.nebpresby.org](http://www.nebpresby.org).

## The New Worshiping Communities of Homestead Presbytery!



This New Worshipping Community, under the direction of Dr. Adam Leudtke has been meeting weekly for a myriad of spiritual expression including contemplative conversations, lectio divina studies, weekly contemplative eucharist services, and many more.

Their website at: [contemplatelincoln.com](http://contemplatelincoln.com) has information of currently activities and ministry and how to begin subscribing to their online newsletter. The next issue is loaded with schedules of events, services and a biographical sketch of Howard Thurmond, American Mystic.

Plan to attend their Saturday workshops and retreats or any of the weekly events they have posted. You will be welcomed! They are located at 135 N, 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Lincoln.

Coop 513 is under the leadership of Chris Hanson, who has been guiding them through bible study at their “table” at the Harbor Coffee Shop in the Piedmont Center. It’s from there that many mission efforts have been taken for local families, including a memorial tree.



Coop 513 is at this writing engaged in their SMC '19 trip at the YMCA camp in Granby. Colorado. Youth and their leaders from churches in Presbytery are part of a team doing mission and learning leadership skills. Coop earlier this Spring was essential in collaborating with Contemplate, Lincoln in providing trucks throughout Lincoln for donations of all kinds of need to help in flood relief during the hazardous flooding that hit Nebraska in the Spring.

Coop 513 does have occasional evening worship at the Harbor and one may anticipate another worship service in the near future.

For more information, contact Co-op at: [thecoop513.org](http://thecoop513.org).



Our newest New Worshipping Community, U Kirk, Lincoln, is a college ministry designed for Presbyterian students under the direction of Dr. Christine Dempsey. Things are still in the formative stage with the building of a website and communicating with churches in the area. Christine is contacting area churches from which college students would be coming to the

University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Christine hopes to have things well publicized and the active support of churches and their pastors to encourage college students from each congregation to be active. Events are planned for the fall for incoming freshman and returning students.

For more information, please contact Dr. Christine Dempsey at [dempsey\\_christine@yahoo.com](mailto:dempsey_christine@yahoo.com) or visit [ukirklincoln.com](http://ukirklincoln.com)



# Today is World Refugee Day

-Mark Koenig, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

In 2019, we **remember** that there are 68.5 million people around the world forced from their homes in fear for their lives due to war, natural catastrophe, persecution or fear of persecution. We take time to look beyond our own microcosm and recognize the incredible commitment of developing countries in the developing world who host 84% of the world's refugees.

We share the sorrow of refugees living in this country who mourn the loss of loved ones and whose hearts ache for reunification with their spouses and children separated by displacement or resettlement.

We **pray** for the 22.5 million of these displaced people who are refugees – who have fled countries like Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The 5 million Palestinians living in refugee camps in Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan for decades, even generations.

We pray for our government and for the governments of refugee host countries around the world to not become discouraged, but to work together as one global family to meet the humanitarian needs of refugees on their doorsteps.

On this World Refugee Day we **celebrate** the former refugees who have become part of our communities and our churches. We honor the many gifts they bring to their new country. We give thanks that through their eyes we see the hope and promise that they find in our nation's highest ideals and the deep embrace from congregations who welcome them.

On this World Refugee Day we call on our government to renew our country's **commitment** to resettle refugees in need of a long term solution. In spite of a goal to resettle 45,000 refugees this federal year, only 25,000 or 26,000 are expected to arrive, leaving almost 20,000 refugees behind. We can do better.

We will [write post cards](#) to let our elected officials know that we are outraged by US Government policies that imprison asylum seekers and separate parents from their children in order to send a message that they should not seek safety here. We are stunned by the decision of our government to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to their cries for safety, freedom and justice.

We claim our own inheritance as people of faith to discern again our role as individuals and congregations. When we turn to scripture, we find 92 separate references to welcome and care for the stranger. We seek to be an example for our country and our world by choosing welcome over fear and hatred of the other as we seek God's direction for us in this particular moment.

This World Refugee Day **we choose welcome**, again.

A photograph of the Statue of Liberty in New York City at sunset. The statue is silhouetted against a bright orange and yellow sky. The city lights are visible in the background.

GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR,  
YOUR HUDDLED MASSES  
YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE,  
THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF  
YOUR TEEMING SHORE.  
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS,  
TEMPEST-TOSSED TO ME,  
I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE  
THE GOLDEN DOOR

*Inscription on the Statue of Liberty  
-Emma Lazarus*

## ***Words to Remember***

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

*- Psalm 46:1-2*

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